

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed concurrently with a request for continued examination. Claims 1 and 25-45 are pending, with claim 1 being independent. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the application, including, for example, Figs. 1 and 2, and pages 7 and 8 of the specification. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1, 25-40 and 43-45 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,019,627 (Embo) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,257,945 (Heng). Claims 41¹ and 42 have been rejected as obvious further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,071,145 (Toly).

Applicants previous response was directed to the claimed holding-down clamp that closes off the through-channel. The final Office Action maintained the rejection and included further detailed of how Embo is believed to describe portions of the claim. In response, applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that the holding-down clamp holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal and is inserted in the housing. It is believed that this amendment and the more detailed explanation below will address the concerns in the final Office Action.

Applicants requests withdrawal of these rejections because no proper combination of Embo, Heng, or Toly describes or suggests "the at least one wire terminal further includes ... at least one holding-down clamp which holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal and which is inserted in the housing" and "exhibits a transverse plate that closes off the through-channel and has an opening through which the connecting lug of the wire terminal protrudes," as recited by amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

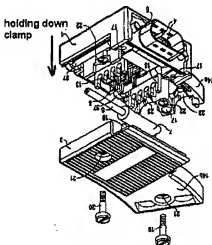
Embo is directed to a plug connector with a lower part and a cover including a number of insulation displacement contacts (IDCs). See Embo, Fig. 1, numbers 1 and 3; Fig. 2, number 8. The IDCs are used for inserting at least one conductor of a cable, See Embo Fig. 1, numbers 6 and 7, and are seen to be included in pairs with a slot and fork limbs 11. See Embo, Fig. 3, numbers 8, 10, and 11. The slot and fork limbs 11 are used to cut into the insulation and to make

¹ The office action states that "Claims 42 and 43 are rejected...further in view of Toly." See final Office Action, page 5. In view of the totality of the rejection, applicants believes that the office action is correctly read as applying the Toly reference to claims 41 and 42.

contact with the IDC contacts. See Embo, column 5, lines 25-30. In the IDCs, a connection between the housing cover 3 and the lower part 1 is produced by two screws 19 and 20. Furthermore, the “conductors 6 are pressed into the IDC contacts 8 and make contact with the IDC contacts, by the underneath of the cover 3, as a result of the screws 19, 20 being screwed in and tightened.” See Embo, column 6, lines 10-23.

The office action, on page 4, rejects the previously claimed holding-down clamp as anticipated by Embo's guides 13 and plug body 5. Further, the office action, on page 7, states :

In response to Applicant's argument regarding the holding down clamp, please note that the combined structure (13, 15) of Embo holds down the wires in the through channel, as shown in the following figure.



Neither the plug body 5, the guides 13, nor the grooves 15 in Embo disclose or suggest “the at least one wire terminal further includes ... at least one holding-down clamp which holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal and which is inserted in the housing” and “exhibits a transverse plate that closes off the through-channel and has an opening through which the connecting lug of the wire terminal protrudes,” as recited by amended claim 1 (emphasis added).

In Embo, element 5 is a plug body, and, as shown in the above illustration, is outside the housing. In contrast, amended claim 1 recites the holding-down clamp is "inserted in the housing." See Embo, Fig. 1. Moreover, the claimed holding-down clamp "holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal." As Embo's element 5 neither holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal nor is in the housing, element 5 does not describe or suggest the recited holding-down clamp.

Next, as opposed to a holding-down clamp, element 13 and element 15 corresponds to guides and grooves for controlling where conductors come to rest. See Embo, column 5, lines 10-15 and 44-48. The guides 13 do not clamp or use a transverse plate. Instead of using a holding-down clamp as claimed, Embo contains the conductor 6 using screws 19 and 20 to press the conductor 6 into the contacts 8 by connecting the lower part 3 and the cover 1. See Embo, column 6, lines 10-23.

Moreover, in order to clarify the distinction between the guides 13 and grooves 15 of Embo, the amended claims recite that the holding-down clamp holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal and is inserted in the housing. Thus, the amended claim 1 recites both a feature of a through-channel of the wire terminal and a housing. Further to the point, amended claim 1 recites the holding-down clamp "holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal" and "is inserted in the housing." While elements of Embo may describe a channel for the conductor 6, Embo does not describe or suggest a holding-down clamp as claimed.

Heng is directed to a connection terminal with a single slotted connection unit. See Heng, Fig. 1, number 102. The unit includes two slots or slits at opposite ends for retaining and stripping a wire. See Heng, Fig. 1, numbers 5 and 6. Corresponding to the slot or slit, a first flared opening with sharp sloping edges for a first wire section is used for stripping a wire. See Heng, Fig. 2-3, numbers 5A, 20 and 21. There are also two opposite support sides, each of which is essentially a plane and carries two respective other sides that slope obliquely away from each other, with the six sides defining a hollow convex hexagonal shape of the connection unit. See Heng, Fig. 1, numbers 7, 8, and 9-12. Neither the connection unit nor the connection terminal in its entirety, describes or suggests the claimed holding-down clamp, nor does the final Office Action contend that they do so.

Consequently, Heng does not disclose or suggest "the at least one wire terminal further includes ... at least one holding-down clamp which holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal and which is inserted in the housing" and "exhibits a transverse plate that closes off the through-channel and has an opening through which the connecting lug of the wire terminal protrudes," as recited by amended claim 1.

Toly does not correct these deficiencies of Embo and Heng, nor does the office action contend that it does so. Accordingly, any possible combination of Embo, Heng, or Toly would still fail to describe or suggest "at least one holding-down clamp [that] holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminals" which "the at least one wire terminal further includes...at least one holding-down clamp which holds the wires in the through-channel of the wire terminal and which is inserted in the housing" and "exhibits a transverse plate that closes off the through-channel and has an opening through which the connecting lug of the wire terminal protrudes," and withdrawal of the rejections is hereby requested.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 25-45 should be withdrawn.

Please charge the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) fee in the amount of \$810 to Deposit Account No. 06-1050. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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